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Dated: September 14, 2004

Signature: 
Kathryn L. Nash

SEP 14 2004

Docket No.: 65229-0010/GP-301542
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

 In re Patent Application of:
 Michael Douglas et al.

Application No.: 09/656,677

Art Unit: 2125

Filed: September 7, 2000

Examiner: GANDHI, Jayprakash N..

 For: **METHOD FOR EARLY OPTIMIZATION OF A
MANUFACTURING SYSTEM DESIGN**

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
 MS Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action dated June 27, 2004 ("Office Action") as follows:

A Current Listing of Claims is reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

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